



Montana Technology
Innovation Partnership

Paving the Technology Path To Economic Development

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THE MTIP MAILER - A Bimonthly Newsletter
January 2011 - Volume 2, Issue: 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE MTIP TEAM:

Montana Ranks #1 in the Nation for Entrepreneurship; In the Top 10 for Economic Growth

Montana ranks first in the nation for entrepreneurs and is a top spot for economic growth according to a report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The report - ***Enterprising States: Creating Jobs, Economic Development, and Prosperity in Challenging Times*** - looks at the success of state-driven economic development by evaluating state policies, practices, job creation and other economic outputs. It says federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars have helped jumpstart the U.S. economy, but that state efforts will become increasingly important for driving continued economic growth over the next decade.

Montana is noted as a state on the move - with a first place ranking for the category of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Performers and makes the top ten for Overall Growth Performers.

Enterprising States gives nods to the state's Entrepreneur Development Program, Indianpreneurship programs and Montana Technology Innovation Partnership - all administered by the Montana Department of Commerce.

The report also acknowledges Montana's streamlined permitting

MTIP is no longer charging fees for services provided. Due to FAST and Small Business Administration assistance, services are being continued for the coming year at no cost to MTIP client companies.

Regrettably, the former MTIP Program Manager, Mary McMahon, has moved on to other opportunities. Our team remains intact and as in the past, individualized coaching continues to be delivered by our program consultants, John Balsam and Marti Elder. They assist companies to prepare top-quality, highly-competitive proposals to meet challenging research and development (R&D) program requirements. The MTIP coaching services assist with proposal development, intellectual property protection, government accounting and contracting, strategic partnering, and

and regulatory processes for new and expanding businesses and the state's tax and regulation policies implemented to spur the development of new and innovative energy technologies.

Enterprising States Excerpts:

Bolstered by growth in the energy field, especially in renewable wind energy, Montana is well positioned for new job creation. In most cases this job growth will be driven by small to medium-sized knowledge-based enterprises that are attracted to the state for its high quality of life and access to the vast outdoor recreational opportunities. (Pg. 53 - Montana)

Montana is a national leader in the field of entrepreneurial activity, garnering a top position for business climate and entrepreneurship in multiple indices. Business start rates and other measures of entrepreneurial activity have remained above national average in the state over the past decade. (Pg. 53 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation)

While Montana's energy and mining clusters added a combined 8,400 high-paying jobs to the state since 2002. Montana is also beginning to see the emergence of smaller clusters in chemicals, apparel and textiles, and fabricated metal products. (Pg. 12 - Top Overall Growth Performers)

To view the ***Enterprising States*** report visit
<http://ncf.uschamber.com/enterprising-states/>



Dave Desch,
MBRCT Executive
Director

Research & Commercialization Funding Available: Proposal Deadline March 1st

The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology (MBRCT) is accepting grant proposals for Montana research projects. The deadline for the proposals is March 1, 2011. Grant funds will be available July 1, 2011.

The Board has about \$1 million available to grant in

fiscal year 2012 (7/1/11 - 6/30/12). The Board supports economic development by investing in research projects that have a clear path to commercialization through marketable products or processes. Projects must be matched with non-Montana state government funds at an amount equal to at least 25% of the total project cost.

Small tech-based companies, university researchers, and many others are eligible to apply for these funds. At least 20 percent of the funding is slated

commercialization planning.

Companies that have worked previously with MTIP may directly contact their previous counselor for services.

Companies new to MTIP can complete and submit a Request for Services:

[Request for Services Form](#)

REMEMBER...

**WE WANT TO HELP YOU
SUCCEED...**

IN MONTANA!

MTIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT LINKS

[SBDC Offices](#)

Montana's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) comprise a statewide business-assistance network for entrepreneurs and existing business owners. Free business assistance, low-cost training, excellent resource on financing opportunities.

[MATR Newsletter](#)

Superb electronic newsletter for those engaged in the development and growth of tech-based businesses.

[SBIR/STTR Alerting Service](#)

Excellent electronic newsletter targeting

for projects that support production agriculture. Another 30 percent or more must be awarded to projects that support clean coal research and development, or renewable resource research and development. The solicitation guidelines can be found at <http://www.businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/2012Guidelines>

The Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP) counselors have assisted companies with the MBRCT guidelines for many years. They are available to provide proposal-development assistance to MBRCT applicants in the same way they assist with SBIR/STTR proposals. MTIP assistance is provided at no cost to the applicant. Interested individuals should contact MTIP soon, as the available counseling hours fill up quickly as the MBRCT closing date nears. Companies that have previously worked with MTIP, may directly contact their previous counselor for services. Companies new to MTIP can submit a Request for Services form at: [MTIP Intake Form](#).

SBIR/STTR applicants.

[SBIR Gateway](#)

Access to SBIR/STTR agency solicitations (past, present, and future) and an electronic newsletter for SBIR/STTR-related events nationwide.

[Innovators Guide](#)

Addresses Key issues of confidentiality, invention records, patents and patenting, and resources for additional assistance.

[Approved Montana Research Institutes](#)

Montana non-profit research centers qualified to serve as a Research Institute required in all STTR projects.

[A Good Candidate Profile](#)

Attributes common to most successful SBIR/STTR companies.

Open & Pending SBIR/STTR Solicitations

Agency/Program	Release	Proposals Due
Education NIDRRk 84.133P-1 Advanced Rehab. Research Training	13 Dec 2010	11 Feb 2011
Education NIDRRk 84.133S-1 SBIR-Addressing needs of individuals with disabilities and their families	13 Dec 2010	11 Feb 2011
<i>PENDING-HHS/NIH (Grants) Non-AIDS Related Topics</i>	15 Jan 2011	5 Apr 2011 5 Aug 2011 5 Dec 2011
<i>PENDING-HHS/NIH (Grants) Non-AIDS Related Topics</i>	15 Jan 2011	7 May 2011 7 Sep 2011 7 Jan 2012
<i>PENDING-NIH SBIR/STTR Special Funding</i>	<i>The NIH frequently offers special SBIR/STTR grant opportunities outside their regular omnibus SBIR solicitation.</i>	
DoD STTR 2011.A	27 Jan 2011	30 Mar 2011
DoD SBIR 2011.2	26 Apr 2011	29 Jun 2011
DoD SBIR 2011.3	28 Jul 2011	28 Sep 2011
DoD STTR 2011.B	28 Jul 2011	28 Sep 2011

For a full listing of past, present and future solicitations visit:

<http://zyn.com/sbir/scomp.htm>

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Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP)
www.mtip.mt.gov